

ECL

# Stevens County Commissioners

215 South Oak, Rm #214  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509) 684-3751  
Fax: (509) 684-8310

## FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: 5/6/03To: Mr. John LaniFax: 206-553-1809Re: Upper Columbia Working Group  
Sender: for Responsible StewardshipTony Melgado

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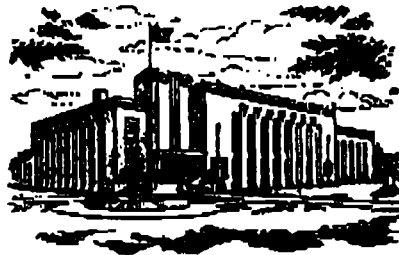


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**Tony Delgado**  
District No. 1

**Merrill J. Ott**  
District No. 2

**Malcolm Friedman**  
District No. 3



**Polly Coleman**  
Clerk of the Board

**Nettie Earnhart**  
Assistant Clerk

**Stevens County Commissioners**

215 S. Oak Street, #214, Colville, WA 99114  
Phone (509) 684-3751 Fax (509) 684-8310  
E-mail: Learnhar@co.stevens.wa.us

May 6, 2003

**Mr. John Iani**  
Regional Administrator, Region X  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Iani,

On behalf of the Upper Columbia Working Group for Responsible Stewardship, I want to tell you how heartened I was by your comments before the recent Lake Roosevelt Forum in which you said you welcomed and would consider a locally-driven alternative approach to a Superfund listing provided it was a substantive effort with solid science to answer the key questions.

I want you to know that I am truly underway with the effort that I and my commissioner colleagues from three neighboring counties announced on April 21<sup>st</sup>, only now we have two more counties which have indicated they too will pass resolutions of support that authorize their joining this effort, and I believe a seventh county, Douglas, may shortly join. As soon as I have all the resolutions passed by the respective counties, I will forward them to you with a formal letter of notification that our effort is official, hopefully by the end of this week.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, one commissioner from each of the interested counties participated in an organizing conference call in which we set deadlines for the resolutions to be passed, identified and discussed other interested parties to whom we would send a solicitation letter to join our effort, and targeted dates in which we could hold the formal organizational session to determine corporate governance of our group, discuss fund-raising and begin the process of setting up a scientific advisory committee to put out for bid and oversee the studies we believe are necessary to answer the three key questions of our constituents regarding whether the water is safe to drink, the fish safe to eat and the beaches safe to play on. Sometime during the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>, I believe we will have that official organizational meeting in Coulee Dam.

Iani - EPA  
May 5, 2003

At that meeting we expect to have a consultant discuss with us an ambitious schedule to proceed with the necessary studies and the other actions we feel are needed to fully address the challenge you laid before us at the Forum. We trust you will recognize the seriousness of this effort and give us the necessary time to meet the challenge you made.

Either Merrill Ott or I will also be calling to discuss this effort with you and to answer any initial questions you may have.

In advance, thank you for your time and consideration.

On behalf of the Upper Columbia Working Group for Responsible Stewardship, which represents the counties of Stevens, Lincoln, Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille and Grant counties, we are respectfully yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Tony Delgado, Chairman

BOCC:lme

Cc: Ferry County Commissioners  
Lincoln County Commissioners  
Pend Oreille County Commissioners  
Grant County Commissioners  
Okanogan County Commissioners